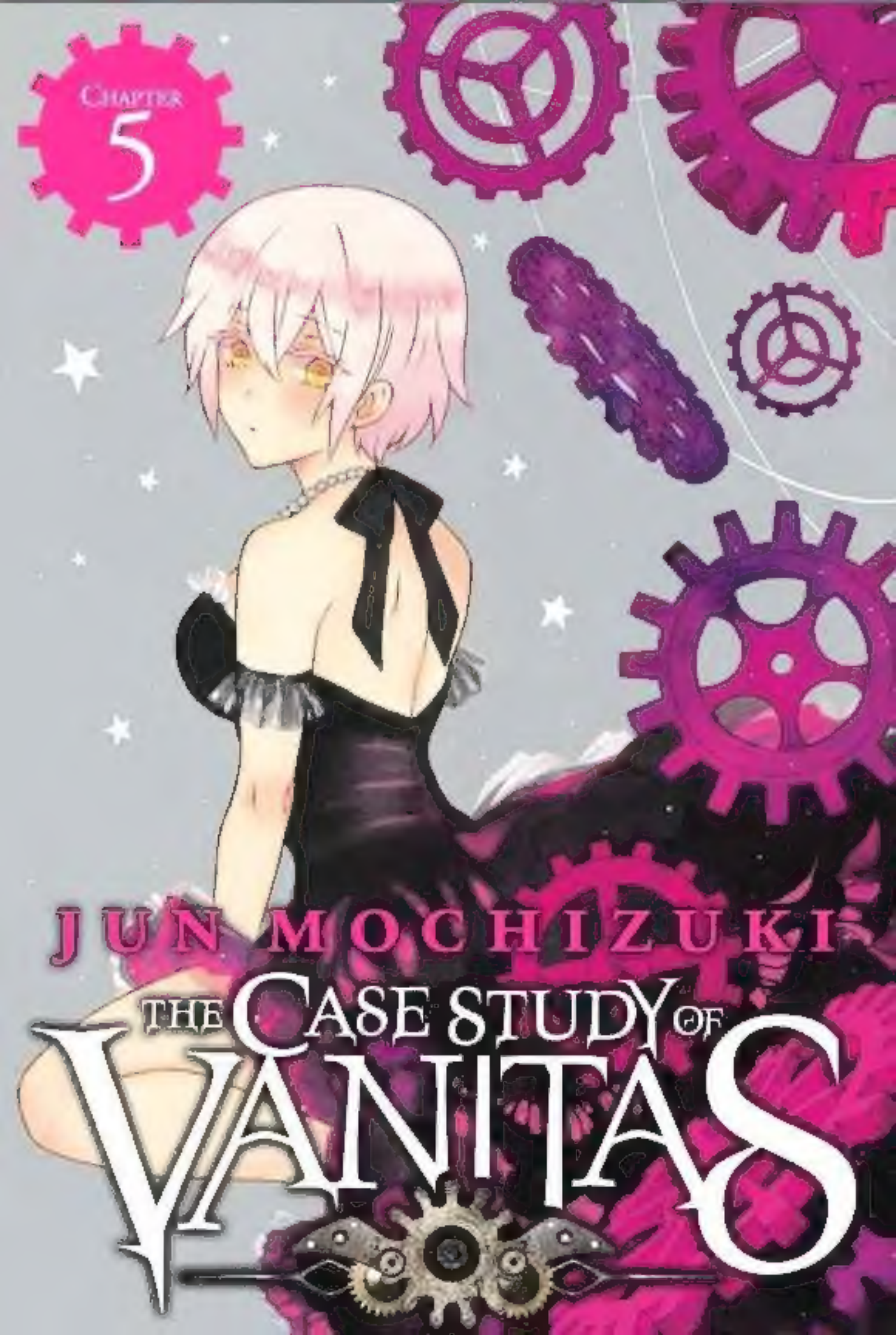

Chapter
5
JUN MOCHIZUKI
THE CASE STUDY OF
VANITAS

THEY SAY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING ANY BLOOD AT ALL LATELY.
I HEARD, NOÉ.

WELL, I...
I'M...AN "ARCHIVISTE," SO...
...SO? IT'S NOT AS IF I'LL DIE IF I DON'T DRINK IT.
TRUE. IT'S JUST ...
...YOU LIKE BLOOD ABOUT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE TARTE TATIN, SO I WONDERED WHAT WAS UP.

...NOE?
WHAT DO YOU SAY...

DO YOU WANT TO DRINK MY BLOOD?

EVEN IF YOU DRINK IT, YOU WON'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE, YOU KNOW.
DON'T WORRY.

ガチャ

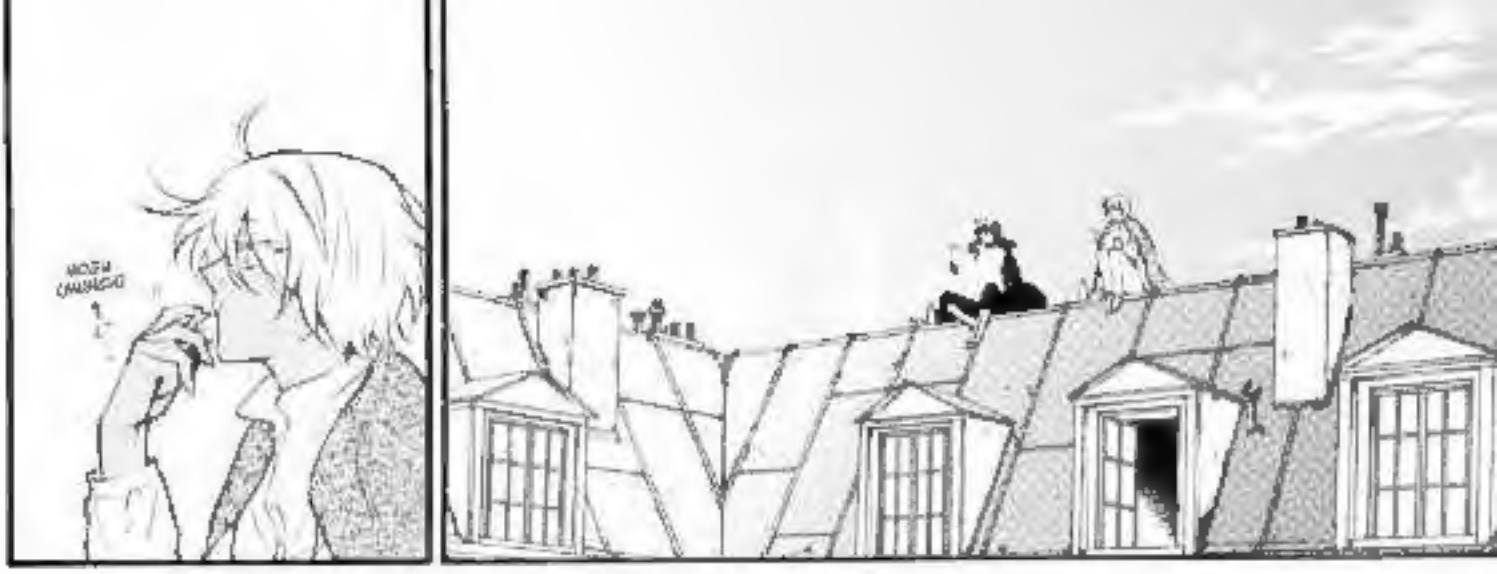
A DREAM ...
...

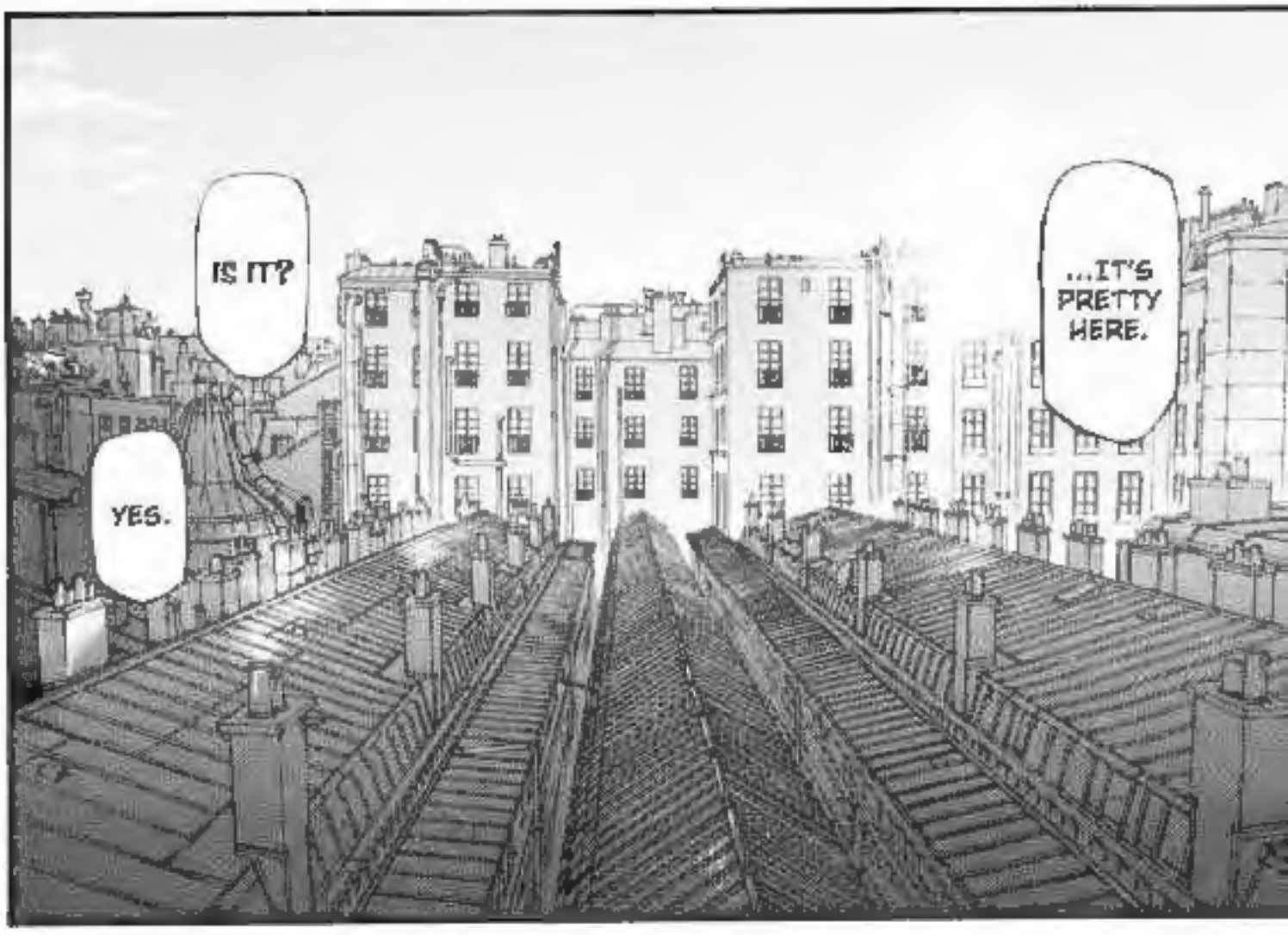
FINALLY AWAKE, HM?

AGH. MURR ...

MROOOOOWR
!

IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST.
COME ON OUT.




IS IT?
YES.
...IT'S PRETTY HERE.

THE CITY'S TIGHTENED THE RESTRICTIONS ON COAL USE, YOU SEE. SOMETHING ABOUT PROTECTING THE TOWNSCAPE...
THE STEAM ENGINES IN PARIS RUN MOSTLY ON ASTERMITE NOW.

WELL, I HEAR IT REALLY WAS LIKE THAT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
A BOOK I ONCE READ SAID THAT PARIS WAS MUCH SOOTIER AND THE AIR WAS BAD. SO I JUST ASSUMED...

AS THE RESEARCH ADVANCES, THEY'LL PROBABLY FIND EVEN MORE APPLICATIONS FOR IT.
IN AIRSHIP LIFT GENERATORS, TO LIGHT THE STREETLAMPS OF PARIS, IN CARS AND TRAMS...
ASTERMITE IS USED EVERYWHERE.
UNLIKE COAL, IT DOESN'T POLLUTE THE AIR, BUT THAT ISN'T ALL.

THAT ROCK TRULY DESERVES TO BE CALLED A "PANACEA STONE."

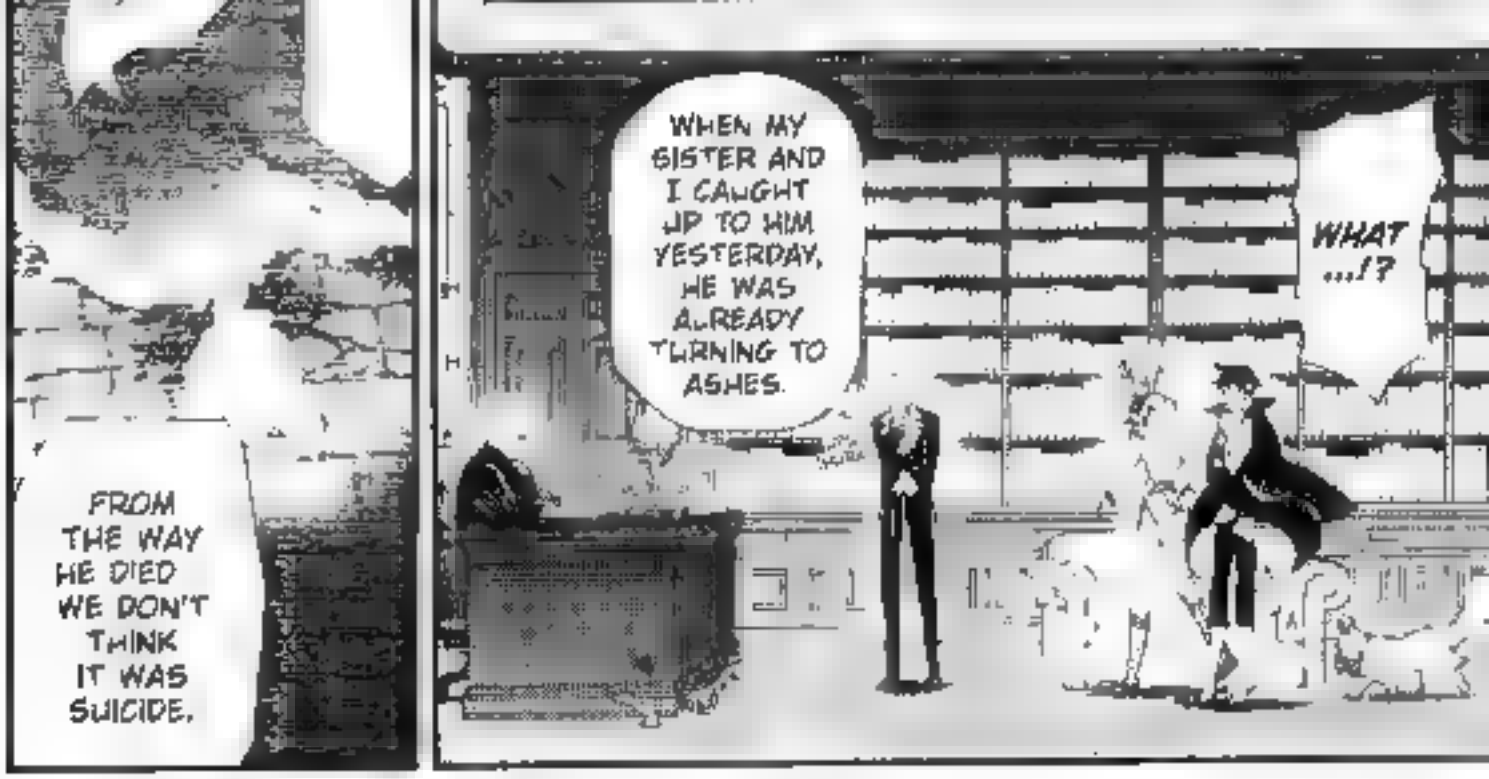
...IT CREATED A MINERAL THAT DIDN'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD BEFORE...
TO THINK ...

BABEL...
...REALLY WAS AN ASTOUNDING INCIDENT, WASN'T IT? REWRITING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD LIKE THAT...

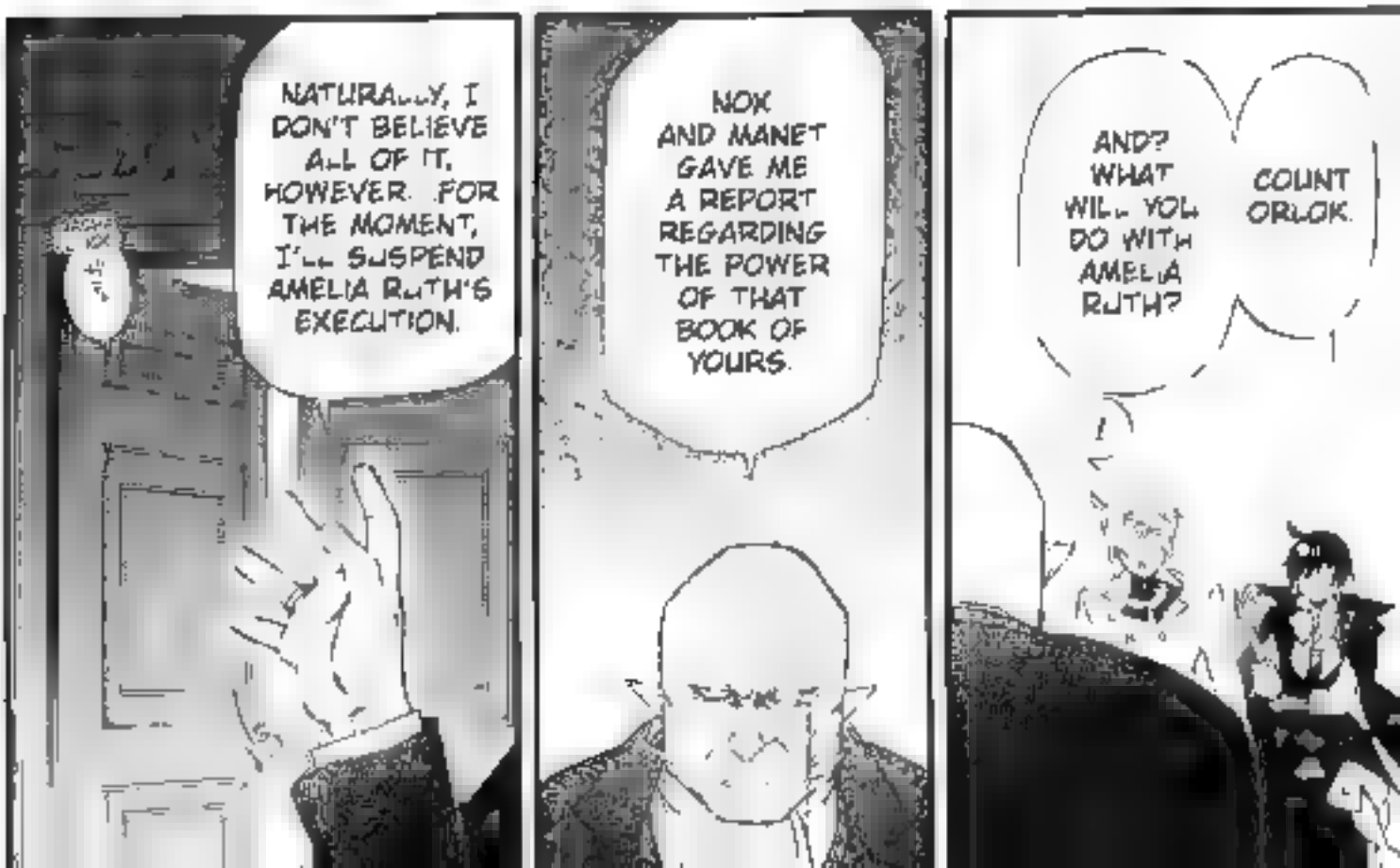
...WHEN WE RETURNED TO COUNT ORLOK'S, WE WERE TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR.
IF YOU GO TO THIS HOTEL, THEY'LL PUT YOU UP FOR THE NIGHT.
COME BACK TOMORROW !!
SATAN ISLAND

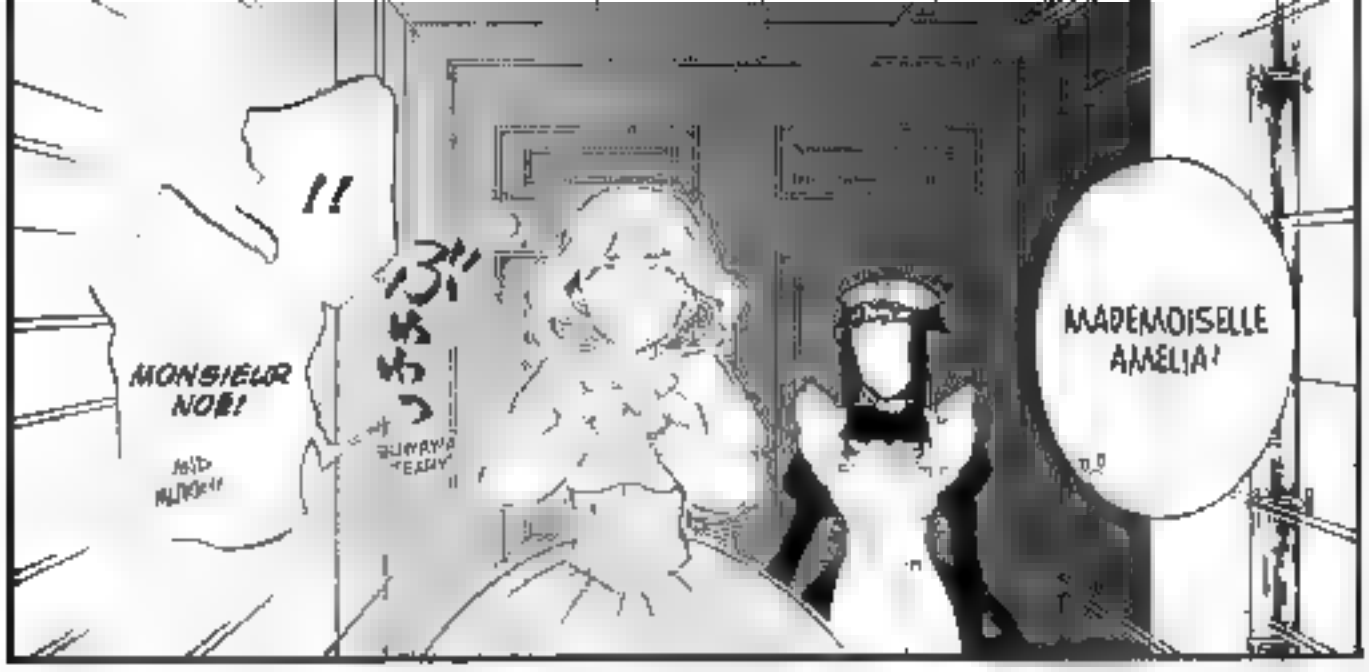
ALL RIGHT. LET'S HEAD OVER TO ORLOK'S, SHALL WE?
SURE.
LAST NIGHT ...

THAT WAS WHAT VANITAS SAID, BUT...
YAAAWN...
I'M TIRED AND SLEEPY.
WELL... I DOUBT THERE'S ANY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT AMELIA RUTH NOW.
DO YOU THINK SOMETHING'S HAPPENED?
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT.
GALERIE VIME
...AND ABOUT HIM...
...ABOUT MLLE AMELIA...
...I AM WORRIED, EVEN SO...
THOMAS BERNEUX IS DEAD.


FROM THE WAY HE DIED WE DON'T THINK IT WAS SUICIDE.
WHEN MY SISTER AND I CAUGHT UP TO HIM YESTERDAY, HE WAS ALREADY TURNING TO ASHES.
WHAT ...!?

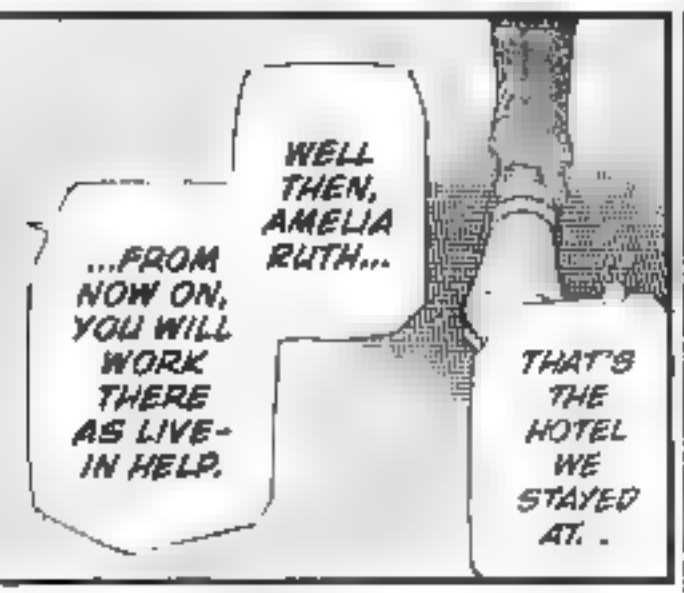
NO.. WHO DID IT!?
WE DON'T KNOW! WE'RE LOOKING INTO THAT NOW!


NATURALLY, I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF IT. HOWEVER. FOR THE MOMENT, I'LL SUSPEND AMELIA RUTH'S EXECUTION.
NOX AND MANET GAVE ME A REPORT REGARDING THE POWER OF THAT BOOK OF YOURS.
AND? WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH AMELIA RUTH?
COUNT ORLOK.


!!
MONSIEUR NOX!
MADEMOISELLE AMELIA!

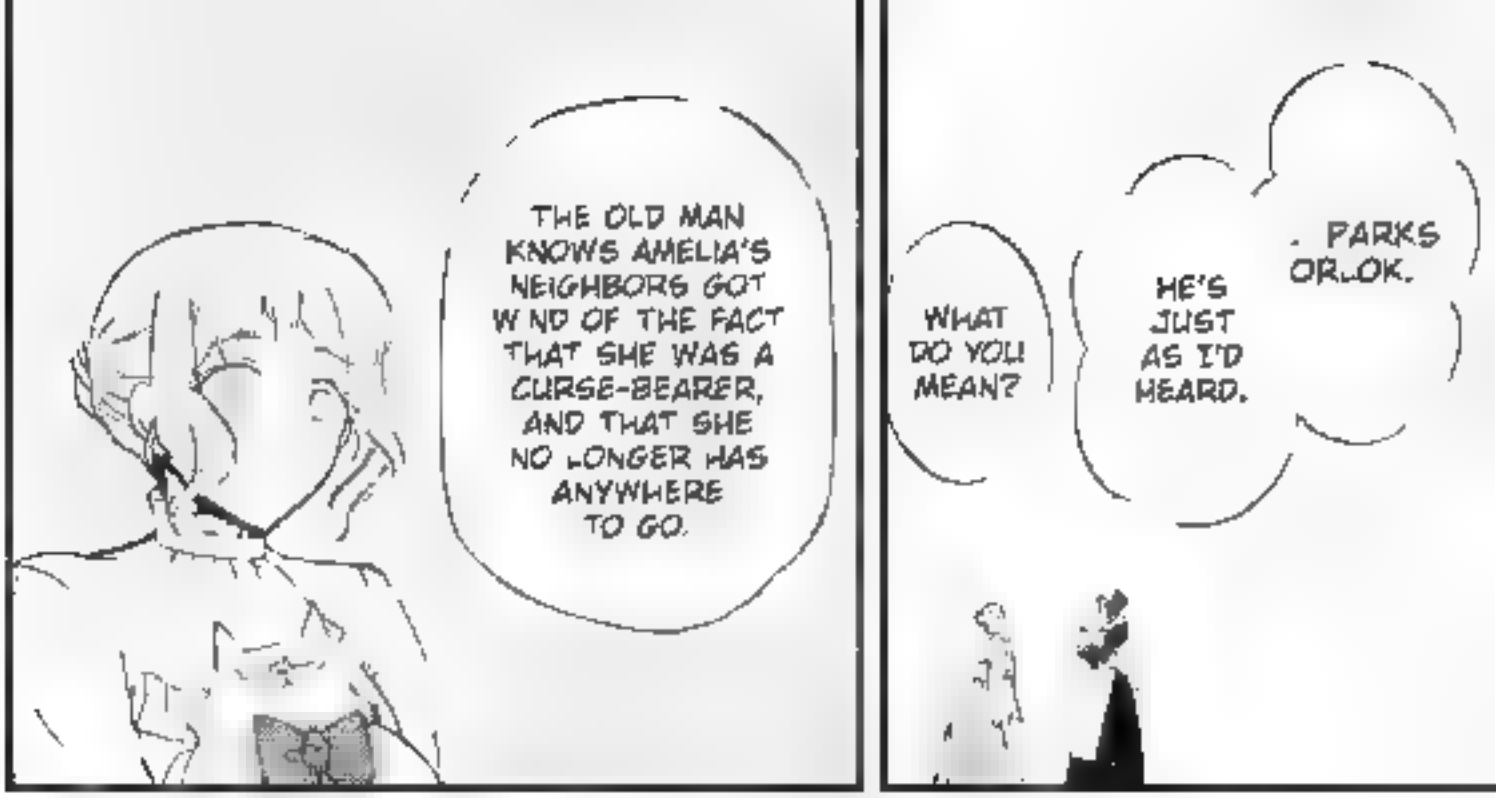
FOR NOW, SHE WILL STAY WHERE I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY SHE WILL LOSE CONTROL AGAIN.
THAT SAID..
YAAAA!


...FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL WORK THERE AS LIVE-IN HELP.
WELL THEN, AMELIA RUTH...
THAT'S THE HOTEL WE STAYED AT..

YES, SIR.
NOX.
IT SEEMS THAT HOTEL CHOUCHOU IS CURRENTLY HIRING MAIDS.
I SEE.

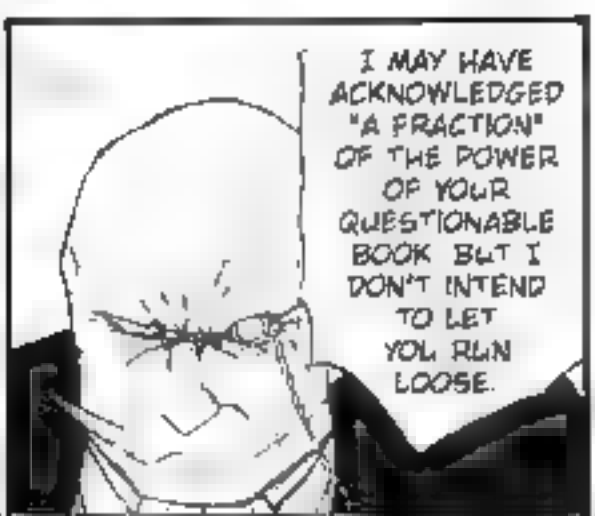
PFFT!
HUH?


THE OLD MAN KNOWS AMELIA'S NEIGHBORS GOT WIND OF THE FACT THAT SHE WAS A CURSE-BEARER, AND THAT SHE NO LONGER HAS ANYWHERE TO GO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE'S JUST AS I'D HEARD.
. PARKS ORLOK.

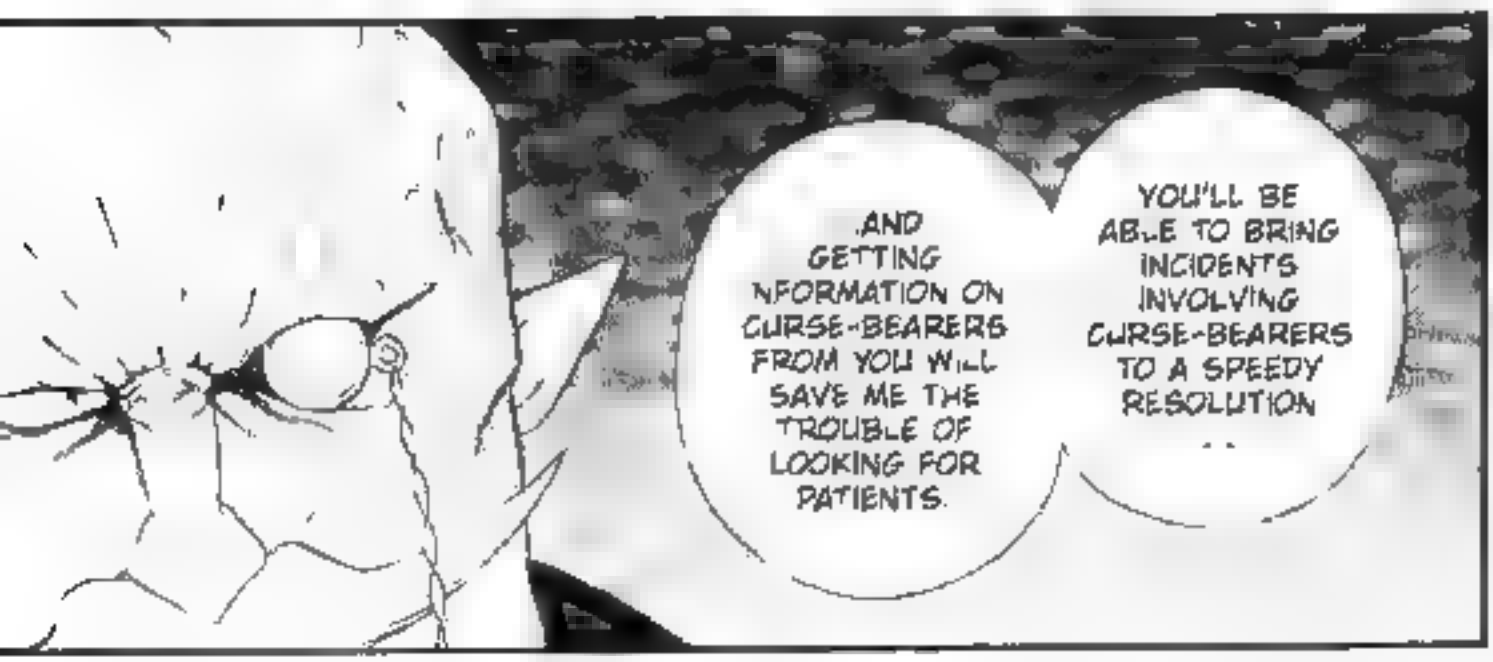
WHAT A JOKE
EASY ON HIS OWN KIND ONLY AT THE VERY END ...

I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.
YOU DIDN'T KILL ME IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THE BOOK OF VANITAS STRUCK YOU AS USEFUL, CORRECT?

HMP?
YOU TOO, HUMAN !!


I MAY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED "A FRACTION" OF THE POWER OF YOUR QUESTIONABLE BOOK BUT I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU RUN LOOSE.

USE ME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
THAT'S FINE.


AND GETTING INFORMATION ON CURSE-BEARERS FROM YOU WILL SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF LOOKING FOR PATIENTS.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BRING INCIDENTS INVOLVING CURSE-BEARERS TO A SPEEDY RESOLUTION

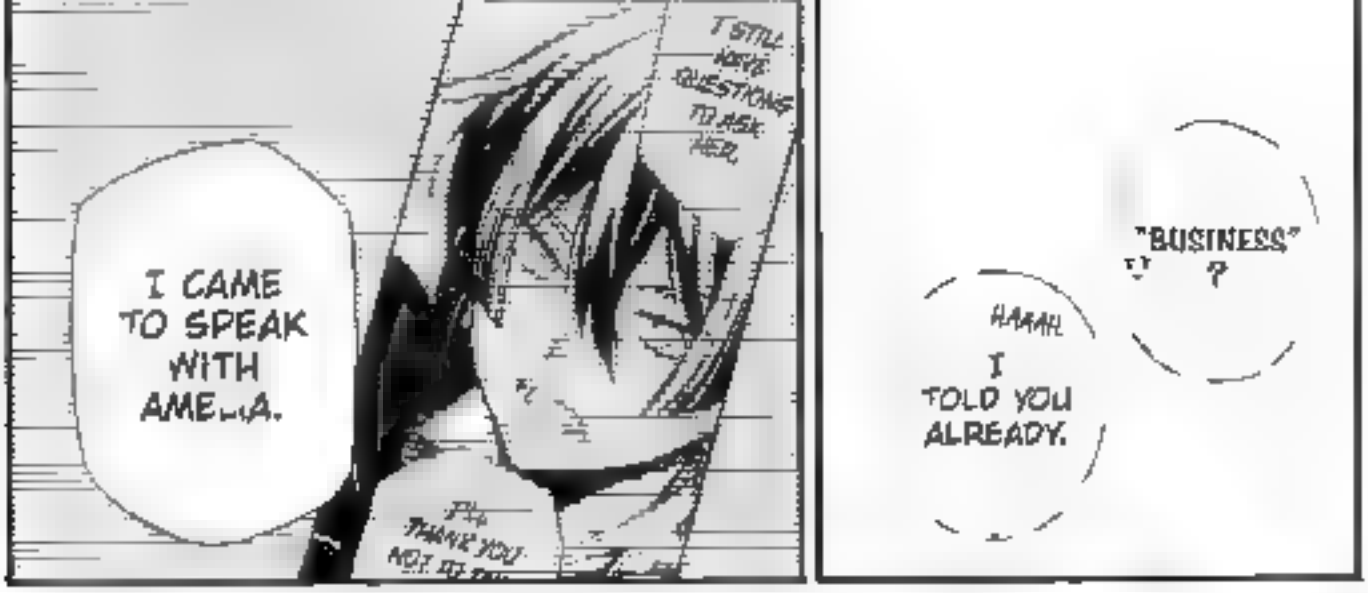
I'LL HAVE THEM KEEP THAT ROOM FOR THE TWO OF YOU.
GIVE THIS LETTER TO THE FRONT DESK AT HÔTEL CHOUCHOU

NATURALLY THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO BE FRIENDS.
IF EITHER OF US CAUSES TROUBLE FOR THE OTHER, WE'LL JUST PART WAYS.

YOU'RE THAT HUMAN'S GUARDIAN, AREN'T YOU?
? YES.
YOU MEAN ME TOO !?
HUH ?
THE TWO OF US?
WHAT YOU'LL BE WATCHING US?
MAKE SURE YOU STAY THERE WHILE YOU'RE N PARIS

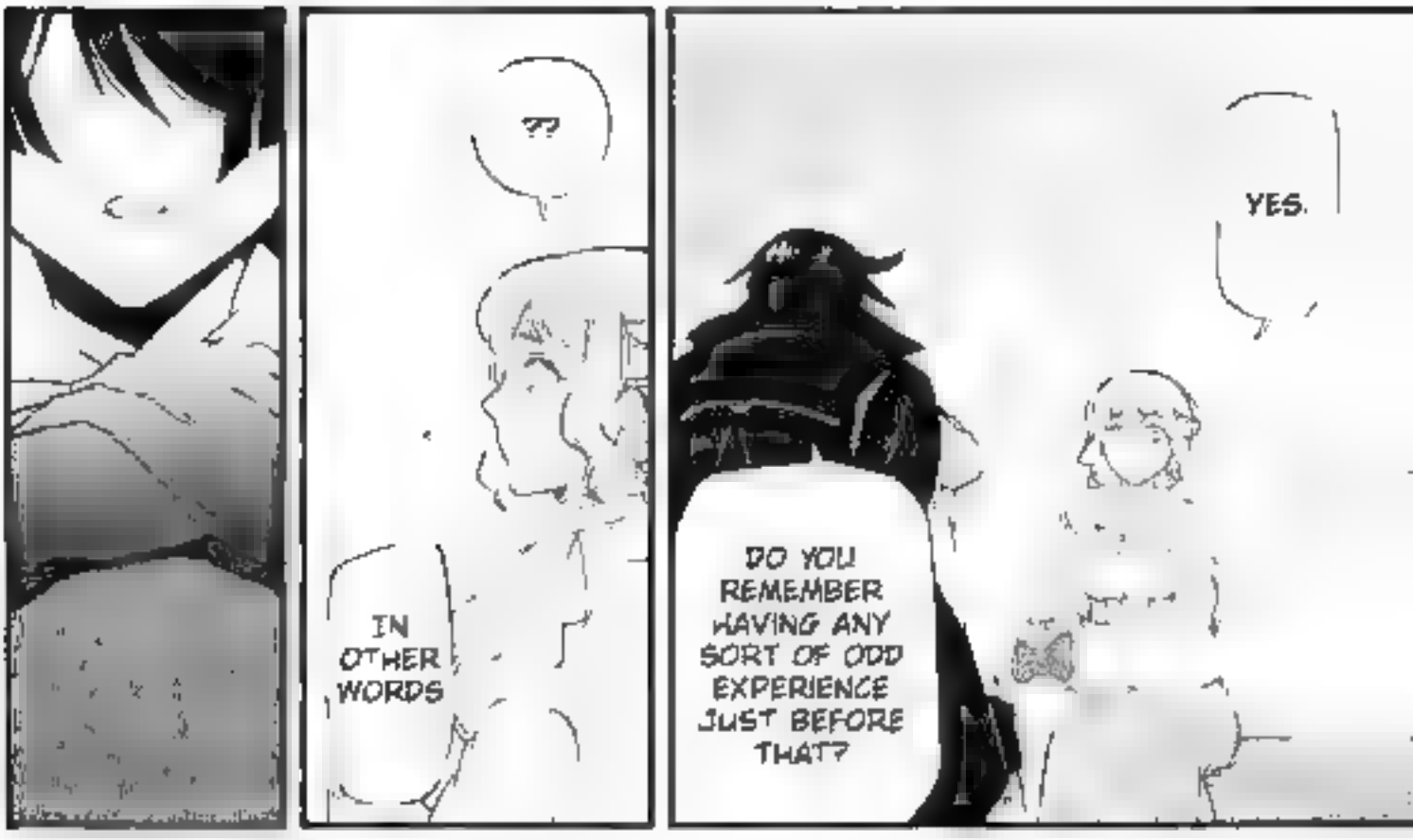
HE'S RIGHT. IF ANYTHING, I'M HIS GUARDIAN.
YOU BE QUIET!
I MOST CERTAINLY AM NOT!!

IF WE'RE DONE DISCUSSING THE FIDDLY DETAILS, CAN WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
NOW, THEN.

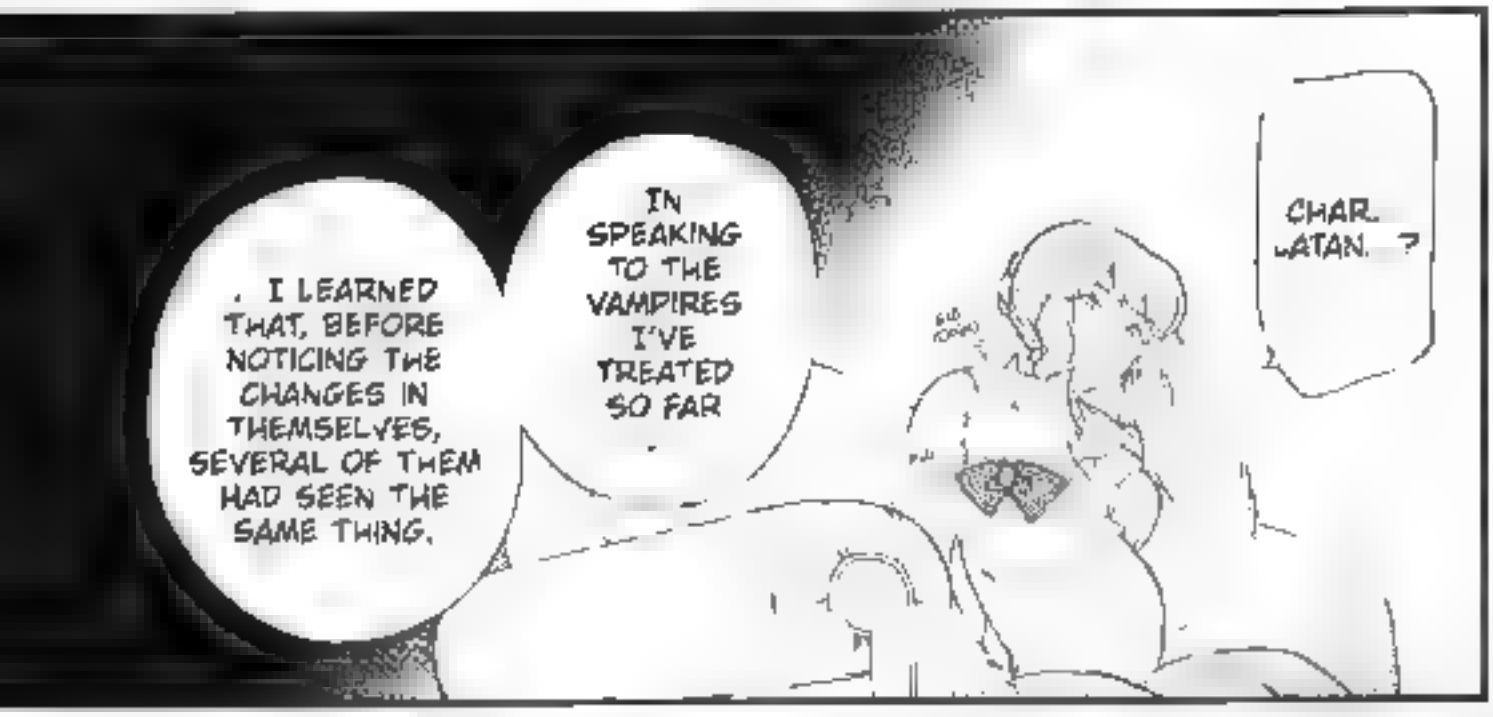

I CAME TO SPEAK WITH AMELIA.
I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK HER.
I'LL THANK YOU NOT TO...
"BUSINESS"?
HAAAH. I TOLD YOU ALREADY.

YOUR "TALK"...
...HAS TO DO WITH CURSE-BEARERS, CORRECT?
GO AHEAD.
..CAN WE TALK HERE?

IN YOUR LETTER, YOU SAID YOU'D REALIZED YOU WERE A CURSE-BEARER ABOUT TWO MONTHS PREVIOUSLY.
AMELIA.


??
IN OTHER WORDS
DO YOU REMEMBER HAVING ANY SORT OF ODD EXPERIENCE JUST BEFORE THAT?
YES.

...SEE "CHARLATAN" ?
...DID YOU...


CHAR-LATAN...?
IN SPEAKING TO THE VAMPIRES I'VE TREATED SO FAR
. I LEARNED THAT, BEFORE NOTICING THE CHANGES IN THEMSELVES, SEVERAL OF THEM HAD SEEN THE SAME THING.

" I SAW THE PARADE OF CHAR-LATAN."
"THERE
THEY SAID, "BEFORE I KNEW IT I WAS SURROUNDED BY THICK FOG

DO YOU THINK THIS CHAR-LATAN IS CAUSING CURSE-BEARERS TO APPEAR?
I HAVE NO IDEA. THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING HER.

HM. SO IT'S NO GOOD. I SEE.

...
I'M SORRY. IT FEELS AS THOUGH I DID SEE SOMETHING, AS YOU SAY, BUT. .I CAN'T REMEMBER..
I'M VERY SORRY THERE'S NO THING
TRY A LITTLE HARDER, ALL RIGHT?

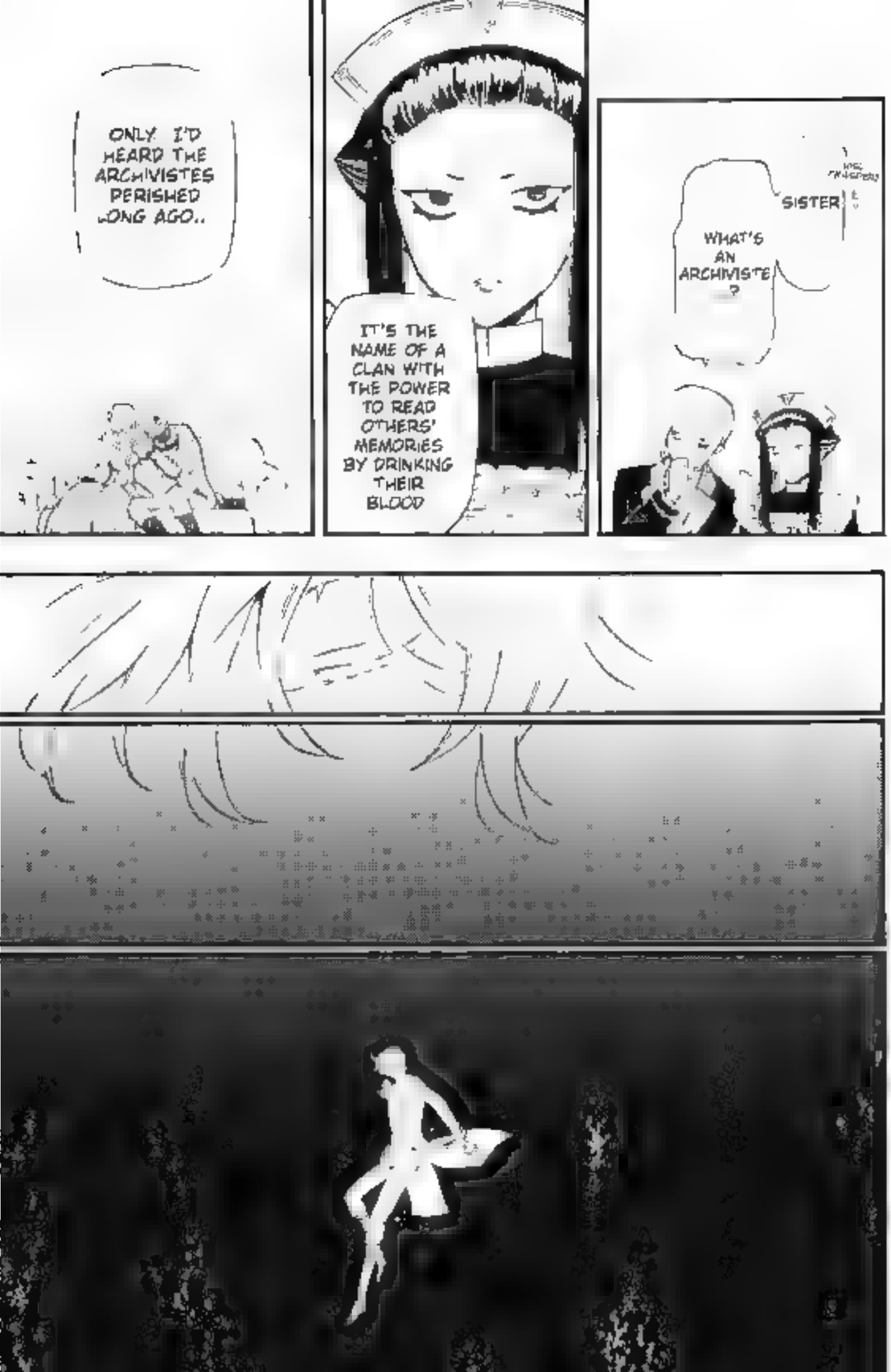
...WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK?

NOS ARCHIVISTES

...YOU KNEW ABOUT ME?
BEFORE YOU CAME HERE YESTERDAY I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM YOUR TEACHER.
THE LETTER HAD YOUR NAME
. AND A REQUEST THAT I ASSIST YOU WITH EVERYDAY MATTERS WHILE YOU WERE N PARIS.
"ARCHI-VISTE"

IF THERE IS PLEASE DO IT.
IS. IS THERE SOME WAY TO SEARCH MY MEMORIES?
...HM...
PLEASE, MONSIEUR NOE
I'D BE VERY GLAD TO BE OF USE TO YOU!
HUH ?
...ALL RIGHT.

"FOG."
"CHARLA-TAN."
"PARADE."
UNEARTH THE MEMORY
...EVEN SHE'S FORGOTTEN
FURTHER
FURTHER ...
DEEPER ...


ONLY I'D HEARD THE ARCHIVISTES PERISHED LONG AGO..
IT'S THE NAME OF A CLAN WITH THE POWER TO READ OTHERS' MEMORIES BY DRINKING THEIR BLOOD
SISTER
WHAT'S AN ARCHIVISTE ?

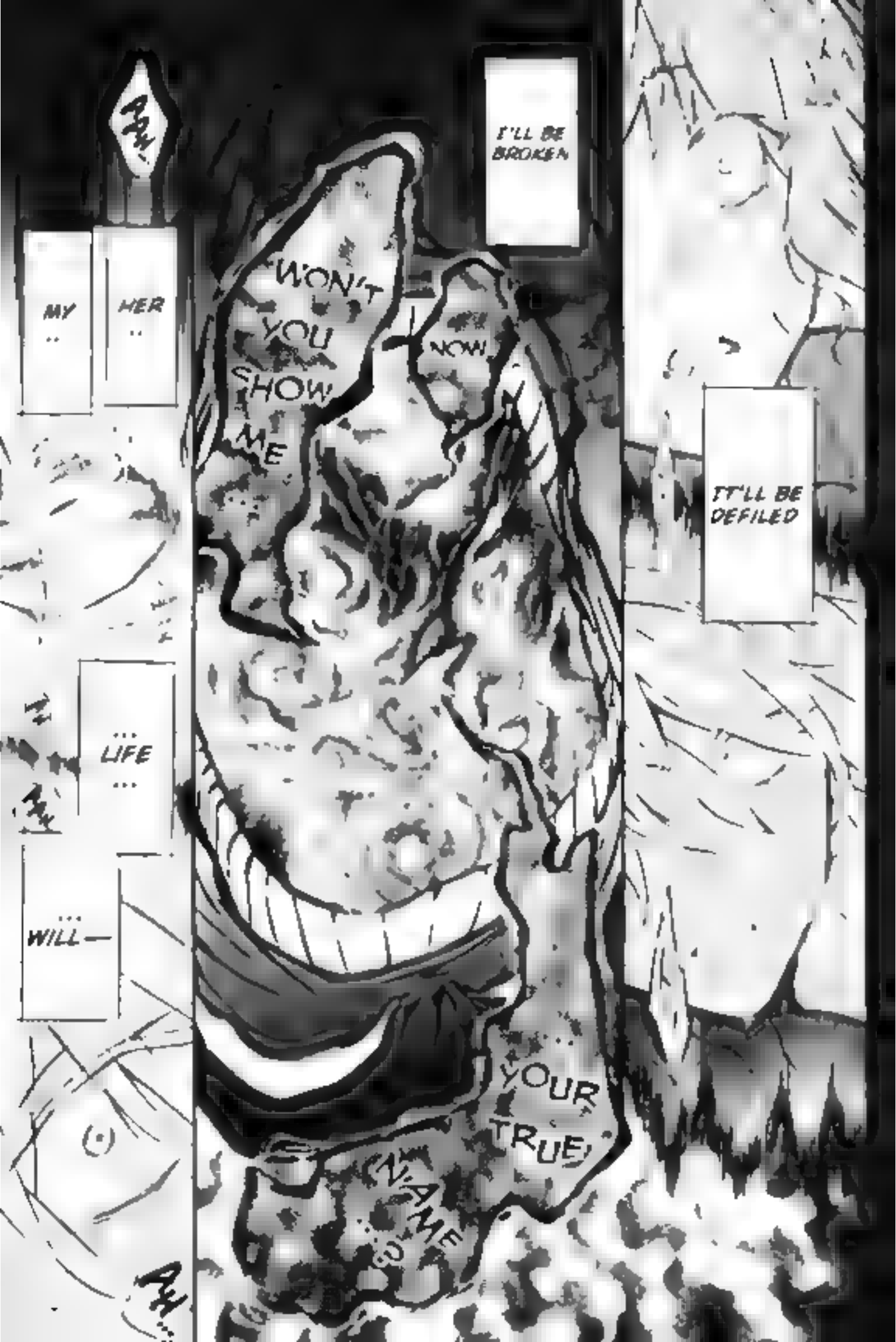
SHOULD BE—!
FOUND IT.
THIS...
WHA ...!?

DID THIS REALLY HAPPEN?
.. OR IS IT SOMETHING SHE DREAMED?
WHERE WHERE AM I!?
I WAS JUST ON MY WAY HOME, AND ..!
HUH ?

...WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS ...?
ME
CO
L
WE
OF
TO THE PARADE
CHAR-
LATAN

I CAN FEEL..
. MLLE AMELIA'S TERROR.
AH!!!
"IF THAT CATCHES ME .
". .I'M DONE FOR."
"THAT IS SOMETHING VERY WRONG.
SHE KNEW INSTANTLY.

I
FOUND
HAVE
YOU...


AH...
MY ..
HER ..
... LIFE ...
... WILL—
I'LL BE BROKEN
WON'T YOU SHOW ME
NOW
... YOUR TRUE NAME
IT'LL BE DEFILED

AAAA

MONSIEUR NOÉ...!!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF—! AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
WE'RE BUSY!!

AH. I DO BEG YOUR PARDON...
...MADEMOISELLE.
!?
THEY TOLD ME...
...NOÉ WAS HERE, SO I STOPPED BY.
IT WAS THAT THING'S FAULT...
MADEMOISELLE AMELIA'S TRUE NAME.
IT WAS STOLEN.
THAT THING STOLE IT.

...FAULT!
THAT THING'S ...
...OR MAYBE YOU DON'T?
HM? DO YOU KNOW ME?
...! YOU'RE...
BABA (FLIP)
KATSU (CROUCH)
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.

MY NAME IS DOMINIQUE DE SADE.
I'M NOÉ'S FIANCÉE.
TO BE CONTINUED...